

Members

Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson
Sen. Rose Antich-Carr
Rep. Troy Woodruff
Rep. Sheila Klinker
Sylvia Marie Brantley
Christopher Durcholz
Daniel R. Harshman
Suda Hopkins
Sally Lowery
Scott MacGregor
Betty Williams
Darin J. Yoder



COMMISSION ON MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 25, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson; Rep. Troy Woodruff; Rep. Sheila Klinker; Sylvia Marie Brantley; Christopher Durcholz; Sally Lowery; Betty Williams; Darin J. Yoder.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Antich-Carr; Daniel R. Harshman; Suda Hopkins; Scott MacGregor.

I. Introductions

Senator Riegsecker called the meeting to order at 1:49 p.m.

II. Closing of Fort Wayne Developmental Center; Mitch Roob, Secretary, Family and Social Services Administration

Secretary Roob presented information pertaining to the closure of Ft. Wayne Developmental Center. Secretary Roob reported that the decision was made on October 24, 2005, to close the facility. He listed three reasons behind the decision: (1) quality of care; (2) quantity of money saved; and (3) ongoing issues. Secretary Roob stated that the administration hopes to

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close the facility by July 1, 2007.

(1) Secretary Roob stated that the model of care provided at Ft. Wayne Developmental Center is long past nationally accepted practices. Research shows that community-based care is better quality care than institutional care.

(2) Secretary Roob reported that it costs on average of \$860 per day for each resident of Ft. Wayne Developmental Center. There are currently 208 residents, totaling \$65.3 M annually. Movement of residents to the community should save the state a large amount of money and will likely open up money for services for additional persons.

(3) Secretary Roob stated that the deaths and abuse allegations that have taken place at Ft. Wayne Developmental Center are found to be unacceptable by the administration.

Secretary Roob reported that there are 1,000 employees employed at Ft. Wayne Developmental Center. All 1,000 employees will be offered employment (assuming they meet hiring standards) through Liberty Health Care at a wage equal to or above what they currently make and with similar benefits.

Secretary Roob reported that residents of Ft. Wayne Developmental Center will be moved to communities in Northeastern Indiana. However, families will have other options made available to them if concerns are voiced. Twelve persons have been identified thus far who will need to remain in institutional settings. Those twelve will likely be moved to Logansport.

III. Contract Renewal Update; Peter Bisbecos, Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services; Davie Gootee, Deputy Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services

Mr. Bisbecos and Mr. Gootee provided additional information to the Commission pertaining to contract renewal changes. Information was presented at previous Commission meetings by the Deputy and Deputy Director relative to the issue. Mr. Bisbecos reported that the rate changes will become effective on November 1, 2005. The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) has conducted 16 family, provider, and case manager informational meetings across the state. He reported that there is still some anxiety from providers and families, but that the administration is answering all questions in an attempt to ease the anxiety. He stated that the DDRS has received approximately 60 questions from families and has answered approximately 50. The remaining 10 have been sent to waiver specialists to be analyzed. The administration will send out a letter on October 26, 2005, which will include feedback and answers to questions that arose from the 16 statewide meetings. The administration feels that in the past there has been confusion in communication efforts between the state and families, providers, and case managers. It hopes to ameliorate this through use of things such as the aforementioned letter.

IV. PD 3355: First Steps; Lora Miller, Director, First Steps

Ms. Miller summarized PD 3355 for the Commission (Exhibit 1). She stated that the bill would (1) transfer First Steps from the Division of Family Resources (DFR) to the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS); (2) create a Bureau of Child Development within DDARS which would house the First Steps program; and (3) allow First Steps to bill insurance companies without parental permission. Ms. Miller indicated that she would like to change the effective date for the proposed legislation from July 1, 2006, to upon

passage. The Commission accepted this change by consent.

Kin Dodson, ARC of Indiana, suggested that the Commission include itself in the list of entities for which the Budget Agency shall annually report information concerning the funding of the First Steps program. The Commission accepted this change by consent.

The Commission voted to approve PD 3355 with a vote of 8 to 0.

V. People First Resolution

Kim Dodson, ARC of Indiana, stated that the trend nationally is movement towards use of "People-First" language. She asked that the Commission support the resolution (Exhibit 2). The Commission voted to approve the resolution 8 to 0.

VI. Informational Report

Senator Riegsecker presented the Informational Report to the Commission (Exhibit 3), stating that the Commission is not required to submit a final report, so no vote is necessary to approve the report.

VII. Adjournment

Senator Riegsecker adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.